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Community and School Gardens

- General Resources
- Assessment Instruments
- Evaluation Tools
- Sample Policies

Draft 12-16-13

This material was produced by the California Department of Public Health's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Branch with funding from USDA SNAP-Ed, known in California as CalFresh. These institutions are equal opportunity providers and employers. CalFresh provides assistance to low-income households and can help buy nutritious food for better health. For CalFresh information, call 1-877-847-3663. For important nutrition information, visit www.CaChampionsForChange.net.

PSE: School and Community Gardens

- Major PSEs for this channel
 - o Starting school and community gardens

Evaluation Tools

From idea to action — Ten steps to success (University of Missouri Extension)

Include lists of questions to ask 1) at initial meeting, 2) to help evaluate potential garden sites and 3) to help identify local resources needed. http://extension.missouri.edu/p/mp906#ten

Determining Your Goals Worksheet (developed by School Garden Wizard)

Especially for school gardens a useful formative evaluation resource for considering implementation questions/approaches. The worksheet is intended to be a guide for summarizing your goals for the entire project. http://www.communitygarden.org/rebeltomato/pdf/goals_worksheet.pdf

How to make healthy changes in your neighborhood (ChangeLab Solutions)

Every city and county in California has a local government agency called a planning department or a community development department. These agencies are in charge of making decisions about where grocery stores, community gardens, and farmers' markets are located. This 2-pager identifies eight steps to take to engage with your local planning department to advocate for the incorporation of healthy changes in the general plan for your community.

http://changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/8%20steps%20English.pdf

Community Garden Evaluation Tools

A sample community garden evaluation form for adults and youth can be found under the "Sample Evaluation Tools" heading at the on the American Community Gardening Association website.

http://communitygarden.org/learn/tools.php#evaluation

Community Gardens at parks

The League of American Bicyclists "Bicycle Friendly Community Program"

Explore this interactive map to see current BFCs by state and to find out what these communities are doing to promote cycling. http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/

ENACT Local Policy Database – Strategic Alliance

Learn more about related PA community health strategies, and how you can make improvements on a local level. http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/

Draft 11-22-13

Starting Community Gardens to increase access to fruit and vegetables

How to Start a Community Garden toolkit - American Community Garden Association

This toolkit is designed to give many different groups the basic information they need to get their gardening project off the ground, from planning, siting and insurance to organizing, managing and troubleshooting. These lists are in no way meant to be complete - pick and choose those that seem to apply to your own situation. http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php

Rebel Tomato - American Community Garden Association

This site was created as a web based tool for designing and planning a community garden.

http://www.communitygarden.org/rebeltomato/index.php

The Garden Web - iVillage Home & Garden Network

This forum is meant for the discussion of all aspects of organizing and participating in community gardens. (Note: You must be a registered member to post on the website's forums but it is possible to search and access previous conversation threads without registering.) https://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/commgard/

Community Gardening Toolkit (University of Missouri Extension)

This guide is intended to be a resource for gardeners, garden organizers, extension staff and other agency professionals who want to start a new community garden, enhance an existing garden or assist community members with starting and managing their own community garden.

http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906#ten

Find a Master Gardener to help you through your local Agricultural Extension Program.

http://www.extension.org/pages/9925/state-and-provincial-master-gardener-programs:-extension-and-affiliated-program-listings

Find a local Extension Office

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html

School Gardens

Let's Move School Gardens

Before you start a garden of your own, read and download this stepby-step guide, which offers important information about how to safely grow your own fruits and vegetables with your students.

http://www.letsmove.gov/school-garden-checklist

Land Use Policies, Public Land and Local Government

Land Use Policies to Support Urban Agriculture (ChangeLab Solutions)

This toolkit provides a framework and model language for land use policies that local policymakers can tailor to promote and sustain urban agriculture in their communities.

http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/seeding-city

Dig, Eat & Be Healthy: A Guide to Growing Food on Public Property (ChangeLab Solutions)

This guide provides users with the tools they need to access public land for growing food, including sample tools such as agreements between a city and community gardens, a lease agreement between a city and corporation, a license agreement between a city and community organization, and other community garden agreements. http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/dig-eat-be-healthy

Cultivating Community Gardens (Local Government Commission)

Barriers, such as liability expenses, code restrictions and a lack of resources, which often make it difficult for communities to establish or maintain gardens in their neighborhoods, can be overcome with local government engagement. This fact sheet offers case studies, best management practices, resources and tools for policy-makers regarding creative, cost-effective solutions that reduce barriers and facilitate the creation of community garden programs.

http://www.lgc.org/freepub/community design/factsheets/community gardens/index.html

A Legal Toolkit for Community Gardens (ChangeLab Solutions)

This toolkit is designed to help overcome the legal and practical barriers to establishing community gardens on land that is not municipally owned. It provides several model agreements and other documents that can easily be tailored, simplifying the process of building an agreement that benefits both landowners and the community.

http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/ground-rules